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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. According to a recent account of life in Poland, the average Polish worker earns 700 to 800 zlotys per month; the professional between 1,000 and 1,200 zlotys per month. A salary of 2,000 zlotys is considered very high. Engineers are the best paid and in the electrical and hydroelectric power industries their salaries averaged a minimum of 2,000 zlotys.
2. During the month of April 1955 the prices for essential goods were as follows: one kilo of bread, 4 to 4.50 zlotys; one kilo of beef, 35 to 40 zlotys; one kilo of butter, 60 zlotys; a lemon, eight zlotys; a cup of coffee served in a tea-room, 6.20 zlotys. Life under this cost of living is miserable for the majority of the population. There are many people who have as their sole meal dry bread and soup, sometimes twice a day.
3. A pair of shoes made of linen with a sole composed of a mixture of scrap leather and rubber costs 95 zlotys in a nationalized shop. A pair of custom-made shoes costs 1,200 zlotys for women and 2,000 - 2,500 zlotys for men. A three-meter piece of fabric, having a 40, 60, or 80 percent wool content, costs 3,000 - 3,500 zlotys.
4. Because of the disparity between the real value of the zloty and the official rate, i.e. one zloty to \$0.25, imposed by the government, the cost of a commodity sold abroad is appreciably less than when sold on the domestic market. For example, a three-minute telephone conversation between Warsaw and Basel, Switzerland, cost only 3.50 zlotys, i.e. much less than an interurban telephone call within Poland. Postage for a letter sent abroad cost 0.60 zlotys while the same letter requires 0.80 zlotys of postage when mailed to a point within Poland.
5. By the same token, foreign commodities sold on the Polish market bring a worthwhile profit to the seller.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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6. Living conditions in Warsaw are exceedingly difficult. Apartments in new buildings cost 200 slotys per month for two rooms. Most of the population live in old houses, which were rebuilt after the war. For the most part, these houses are in a deplorable condition, seldom more than five rooms, and it is not unusual for five families to share five rooms. But, the rent averages only a few slotys per month.
7. As a result of the high cost of living and depressed living conditions, the population's morale is at a low ebb. In fact, people are so disgruntled that they are unable to conceal their disdain for the Polish authorities. Their complaints and criticism of the government can be heard in the trams, in the streets, in the queues. Moreover, it is evident that fear of the police has recently diminished, especially since the reorganization of the UB last autumn. This reorganization was accompanied by official criticism of ranking police officials, which has contributed to an appreciable loss of prestige by the police.

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